

**Joint Budget Committee
December 3, 2004**

Attendance: Kit Boesch, Human Services; Corrie Kielty, Mayor's Office; Robin Mahoney, United Way; Annette McRoy, City Council; Ray Stevens, County Board; Bob Workman, County Board; and Marc Wullschleger, Urban Development.

Ray called the meeting to order. Corrie moved and Annette seconded a motion to approve the minutes as mailed. Motion carried.

Kit gave her Human Services Report. She highlighted the following.

- The Hub is open and has an Americorps worker and two F3 case managers. They have referred 18 youth to services and have four "Hub" youth.
- Low Income bus ticket program is doing well. As of this morning 500 tickets for December had been sold. She noted that 85 parents of middle school students had responded that they would pay \$40/semester for bus passes. Kit stated she didn't have anymore details from the Lincoln Public Schools other than what she reported.
- Agency updates:
 - Kit met with Barry Gourley the new CEO of Family Services. Kit noted he is very knowledgeable, and enthusiastic about the agency.
 - Indian Center – no one has contacted Kit to notify her that Mona is no longer the director. The only way United Way was "informed" was that they were out to the Indian Center meeting with direct service staff. Robin stated the staff knows what they are doing and their records look good. Note: the Board has instructed staff to do emergency crisis intervention.
 - Hispanic Center – Kit sent a letter address to Holly, Director, and Board President Chandra Diaz regarding the lack of responsibility and accountability in grants being submitted after the deadline, records not being kept, and financial reports not being submitted. It was noted that this has been going on for the last couple of years. Kit noted almost every funder has contacted her regarding this problem. The response from the Board Treasurer was the Board has met with Holly requesting program directors have a deadline to submit information and then reports can be completed on time. Kit requested that this information be put into letter form so she can forward it to all funders.

Kit stated that the Hispanic Center has sold their building and will be moving into 2601 O Street with the Asian Center which she believes will be a good move for them.

- Robin noted that the United Way search committee is narrowing the search for the new United Way Director. She noted she believes they are looking for a stronger pool and their goal is for someone with strong fundraising abilities.
- Kit met with a new foundation in Lincoln—the Lincoln Community Outreach Foundation—which is located within St. Mark's Methodist Church and has approximately \$425,000 to distribute annually. Kit stated she emphasized working through agencies to fund programs. She also suggested requiring match funds to illustrate other community support. The foundation wants to fund needs in the community. The \$425,000 is good for several years.

Discussion followed. It was suggested to request this foundation donate 1% to assist in funding the CSI—Lincoln as the JBC, United Way and the Foundation for Lincoln Public Schools does. This will give them a concept of what's happening and an automatic seat as a funder. It was noted that Building Strong Families Foundation (Beatty Brasch) is donating \$10,000 to CSI—Lincoln.

There is no update on the Kroc Foundation.

Kit announced that there were three responses to the RFP for the CSI—Lincoln. They were the Human Services Federation, Center Star, and Urban Development. It was noted that Center Star did not realize the scope of this project. Center Star is more strategic planning and marketing. The recommendation is to use the dollars better and more wisely. With \$5,000 more from the City, the County and United Way plus (the possibility) of the new foundation we should be able to meet a 2005-06 budget.

The new approach has the potential to do much better. Kit noted it will be little impact on the budget and she will arrange a presentation for The Common. Kit said that she and Robin had met with all the Coalitions and that reaffirmed the need for a new direction—a change is needed. She stated most of the Coalitions were looking for leadership. Kit reiterated that funding should be based on data and facts but is not always done that way. We need to know what our gaps are and we need that measuring stick!

Kit noted that the JBC needs to be aware that the Federal juvenile justice money is drying up. She noted juvenile justice is expensive because it falls on the Detention Center. Prevention is the key—keeping youth out of the Detention Center. She also noted that the youth are Lincoln and Lancaster County youth. Ray stated if the juvenile justice system collapses it is the County and the City's fault. You need to invest in prevention. It is money well spent. Prevention helps—it saves money in the long run and it is our legal obligation to take care of the youth. Kit sees the loss of Federal funding as a locomotive going down hill—gaining speed. She did note that it is all Federal money

that we are loosing—nothing statewide yet. Kit stated she feels the juvenile justice money situation should stay at this table as an information item. She also said that over \$300,000 lost is a great deal of money for juvenile justice.

Discussion followed. It was suggested that we may need to look at lobbying in January—there are no resources for Federal lobbying but we do have a state lobbyist that is very good. The city lobbyist in Washington, D.C. is Caroline Chaney. Corrie stated she would give Caroline Kit's information so they can communicate. It was noted her firm works for several different cities. It was stated that you receive good return on your investment on a lobbyist.

The Keno Resolution to the Common is being worked on by Kerry.

Kit noted that the Community Health Endowment focus groups will begin on Monday with first responders. The focus groups are discussing the need for medical interpretation for non English speaking individuals. These focus groups are designed to ask the people that are in the field what is needed. There will be six groups over the next two weeks.

The Bus Pass School Survey was touched upon earlier. Kit stated she will need to get better specifics/details from Lincoln Public Schools to see exactly what the surveys mean. Not all schools were sent the surveys.

Next meeting: Friday, January 28th, at 8:15 a.m., Mayor's Conference Room.

Marc stated that \$113,000 is being cut from Lincoln in regards to CDBG funds in 2005 as compared to 2004. He further explained that the Federal dollars are approximately the same but more jurisdictions are qualifying for the dollars.

Marc stated the Sowers Club is looking for a site for a Ronald McDonald Hospitality House (for the three hospitals to use) in the next 30 days. The Hospitality House would be a place where all individuals with someone in the hospital could stay. They have a large sum of money to spend on an annual basis. Marc stated he was very impressed with the group's "thinking of out the box".

Ray adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Virginia D. Gergen